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DIVISION OF STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY

INSECT AND DISEASE REPORT

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FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE DETECTION SURVEY OF THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, MONTANA

by

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Aerial and ground forest insect and disease detection surveys of the Lolo National Forest were conducted during the latter part of August and first part of September. The following is a review of current conditions.

WESTERN SPRUCE BUDWORM, Choristoneura occidentalis Free.--Western spruce budworm infestations remain static on the Lolo Forest except for the following areas:

St. Regis area infestations have increased and new defoliation was observed from Pardee Creek and Siegel Creek to Sesame Creek north of the Clark Fork River. New defoliation was also observed north of Paradise from McLauphlin Creek to Deemer Peak.

New defoliation was observed in the East Fork and Granite Creek areas of Lolo Creek drainage.

Spruce budworm defoliation increased extensively along the north side of the Blackfoot River, and throughout the Clearwater River drainage.

A total of 1,260,000 acres were defoliated on the Lolo National Forest (Figs. 1 and 2).

DOUGLAS-FIR BEETLE, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.--Infestations have generally increased over the entire Forest. The following areas appeared to have a potential for increased activity: Two Mile, Little Joe, and Ward Creek drainages in the St. Regis area; and Meadow Creek and Dry Gulch in the Thompson River area. Douglas-fir beetle infestations in Rock Creek have declined (Fig. 3).

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk. and PINE ENGRAVER, Ips pini (Say)--Infestations in ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine appear to have generally decreased from 1970 levels. However, new attacks were evident in the West Fork of Big Creek near Savenac, and in the Ninemile area. Also, from Evaro Hill to Mount Jumbo, new attacks by mountain pine beetle were observed in ponderosa pine. A considerable number of ponderosa pine were attacked in small groups in the Garnet Mountains. Most of the latter appeared to be by Ips, which represents an increase for this insect in this area. Some new attacks in ponderosa pine were observed in the Blue Mountain area adjacent to old infestation centers, but recently attacked trees were not as apparent as in 1970 (Figs. 3 and 4).

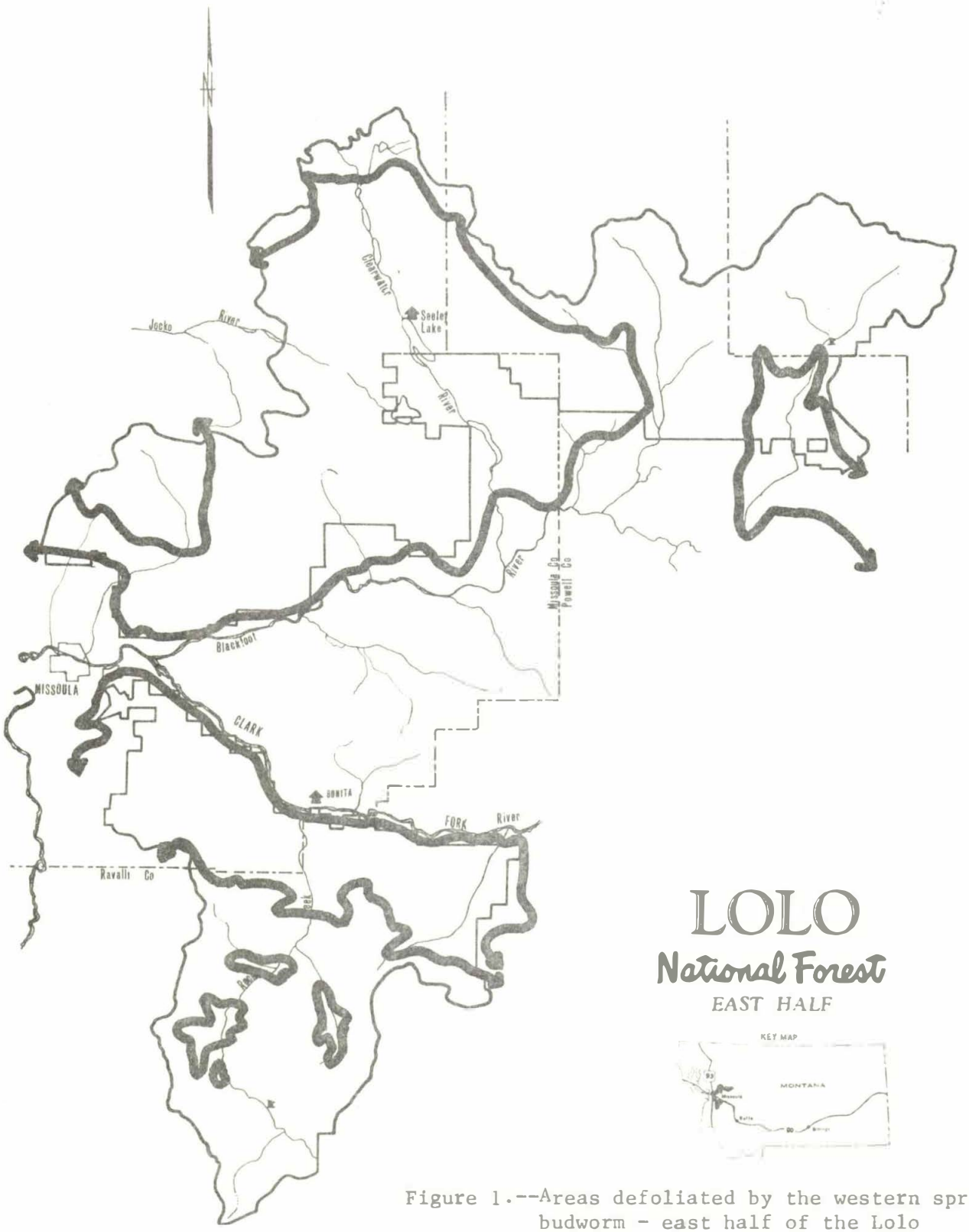

Figure 1.--Areas defoliated by the western spruce budworm - east half of the Lolo National Forest, 1971.

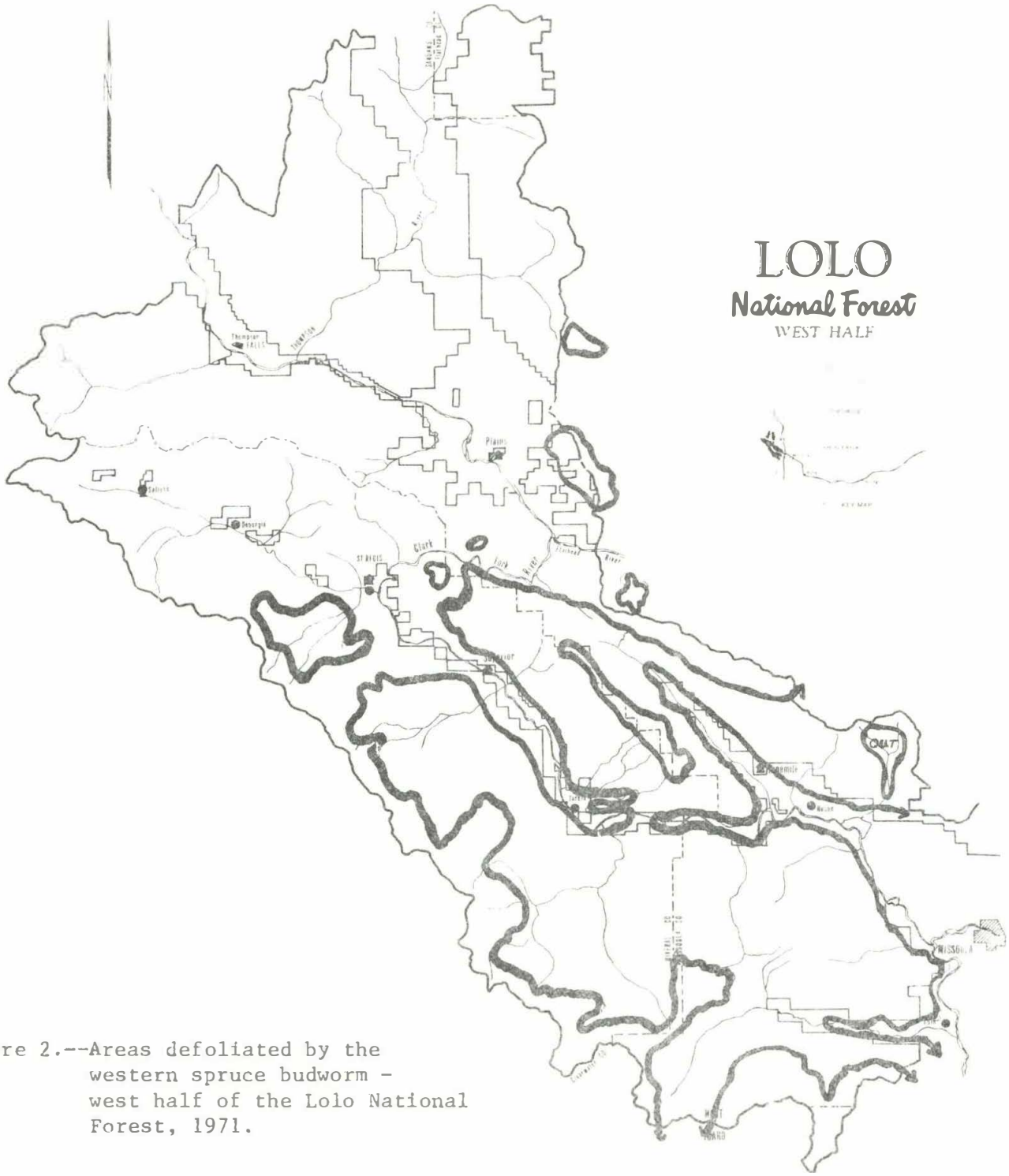

Figure 2.--Areas defoliated by the western spruce budworm - west half of the Lolo National Forest, 1971.

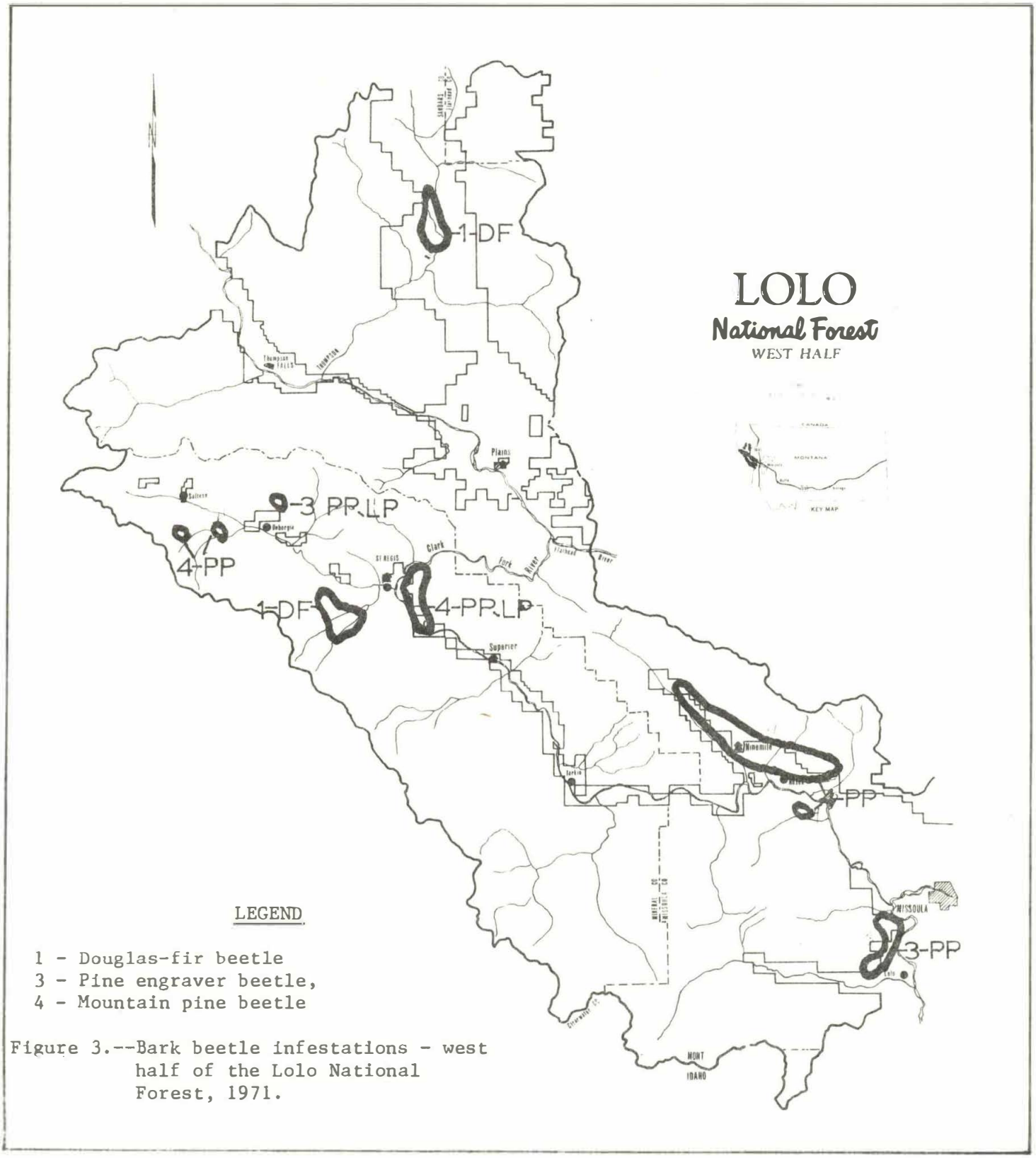

Figure 3.--Bark beetle infestations - west half of the Lolo National Forest, 1971.

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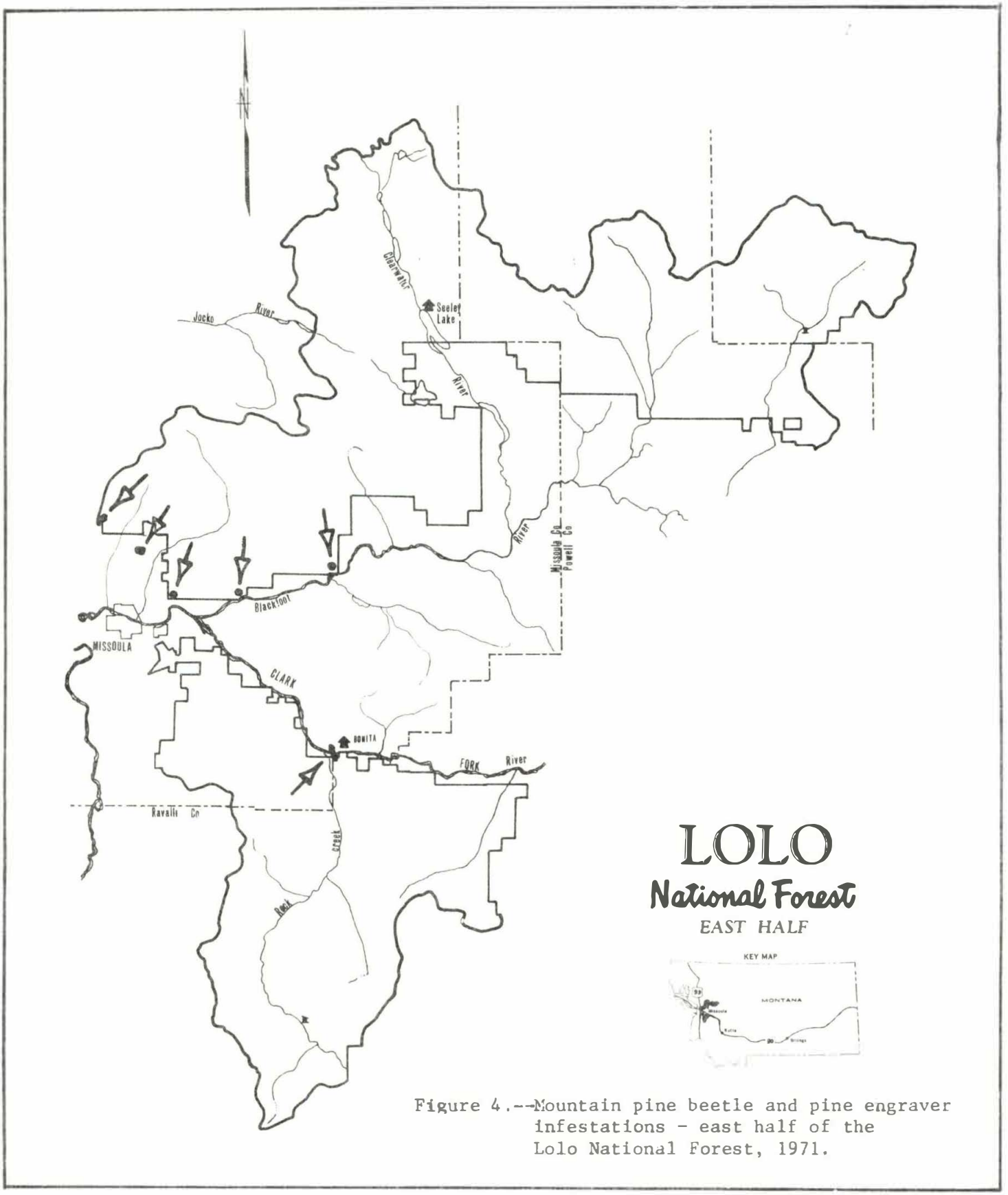

Figure 4.--Mountain pine beetle and pine engraver infestations - east half of the Lolo National Forest, 1971.